

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 15, 1827.

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the petition of the representatives of William Scott, deceased, with the accompanying documents, made the following

REPORT:

That, on the 26th day of April, 1787, William Scott, the ancestor of the petitioners, preferred his petition to the Governor of Louisiana, for the grant of a tract of land on the river Homochitto, in the district of Natchez; and that, on the 21st of May, in the same year an order of survey was obtained from Don Estevan Miro, Governor of the province of Louisiana, according to the prayer of the petitioner. It also appears, by the certificate of William Vousdan, a deputy surveyor under the Spanish Government, dated the 23d of November, 1787, that a survey was actually made in favor of the said William Scott, for two hundred acres of land, situated in the district of Natchez, and about seventeen miles from the Fort on the Homochitto river. It also appears to the satisfaction of the Committee, that the heirs of the said William Scott duly registered their claim before the Board of Commissioners, West of Pearl river, on the 29th of March, 1804, but that proof of settlement and cultivation not being made, the said claim was not confirmed by the Board of Commissioners, and the said tract of two hundred acres was subsequently sold as public lands belonging to the United States.

It is proved, by the depositions of John Bolls and Catharine Bolling, that the said tract of land was settled and improved by the said William Scott previous to and during the years 1792 and '3. It is also proved by the deposition of John Bolls, that "the said tract of land was in cultivation on the 25th day of October, 1795, and for a number of years before and after, and that the children of said William Scott were, at that time, inhabitants of the province, and ever since." From those facts, it results, that the title of the petitioners was protected by the act of Congress of the 3d of March, 1803, and that the United States have sold a tract of land to which they had no title, and in derogation to the rights of the petitioners. The Committee has, therefore, instructed me to report a bill for their relief, which is herewith presented.

